

The US Department of Energy (DOE) recently determined that an electric emergency exists in California, and authorized the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to test and operate specific electric generating resources at their maximum output levels to preserve reliability of the power grid due to ongoing extreme heat, wildfires, and persistent drought.

The order authorizes access of generation otherwise constrained by federal air permit limits, but only when all other available means of getting supply have been exhausted.

It allows the CAISO to call on the following plants in an emergency through Nov. 9, 2021:

- Midway Sunset Cogeneration Facility Unit C in Fellows, CA - (Midway Sunset Unit C);
- The Alamitos Energy Center in Long Beach, CA;
- The Huntington Beach Energy Project in Huntington Beach, CA;
- The Walnut Creek Energy Park in the City of Industry, California;
- Greenleaf Unit 1 in Yuba City, California (Greenleaf Unit 1); and
- The Roseville Energy Park in Roseville, CA.

The CAISO requested the emergency order to access additional generation during times of extreme stress on the power grid during a time when California and the West may continue to experience excessive heat driving up electricity demand, multiple wildfires threatening transmission and generation, and prolonged drought conditions impacting hydroelectric supplies.

The order also directly supports Gov. Gavin Newsom's [July 30 emergency proclamation](#) to add generating capacity to meet demand during climate change-induced conditions, and to connect new generators at Yuba City's Greenleaf and Roseville Energy Park sites.

For more information, visit the DOE website to view the [request and order](#).

Background on the emergency authority and previous orders issued may be found at the DOE's ["Use of Federal Power Act Emergency Authority" webpage](#).